



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 11, 2004

Contact: Ann Riedesel (208) 557-7012

BNFL Inc. Receives WIPP Certification

Idaho Falls, Idaho... BNFL Inc.'s Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project has received certification of its waste characterization program from the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP). The U.S. Department of Energy notified BNFL of the certification on March 9.

This certification follows a rigorous review and audit of the project's waste characterization program. The initial audit occurred in August 2003 and included a review of the characterization process and data, quality assurance programs, training programs, and documented procedures. A follow-up review was conducted in October 2003.

Alan Dobson, General Manager for the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project stated *"I am particularly pleased with how well the project performed during this audit. Receipt of this certification combined with our change to round-the-clock operations represent further significant steps in removing radioactive waste from Idaho."*

Certification of the waste characterization program allows BNFL Inc. to continue shipping transuranic waste out of Idaho. The project began shipping waste in March 2003, but was only authorized to ship a limited amount of specified waste. This certification significantly expands what can be shipped.

Since the start of operations in March 2003, the project has been retrieving and characterizing waste stored at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory. Waste containers that meet all WIPP Waste Acceptance Criteria are queued for shipment to WIPP in New Mexico. Containers that require repackaging are stored for processing through the project's treatment facility, which is undergoing commissioning and will begin operations later this year.

The Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project represents a \$500 million BNFL investment under a privatized contract with DOE. The project will process approximately 65,000 cubic meters of transuranic waste stored at INEEL and prepare it for shipment out of Idaho.

BNFL Inc. is an Arlington, Virginia-based environmental cleanup company providing waste management, decontamination and decommissioning, and facility operations for the nation's environmental and nuclear challenges.

-- End --